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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/596,358

09/14/2006

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EXAMINER

ROWLAND, STEVE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4115

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/596,358	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OHASHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Steve Rowland	<b>Art Unit</b> 4115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/09/2006, 07/02/2007</u> .                                  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |



**DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the descriptions for references "PER" and "S108" are missing. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson, Jr. (US Pat. No. 5,825,876) (hereinafter "Peterson").

Regarding claim 1, Peterson teaches a card game system (col. 3, lines 14-17), comprising a plurality of game apparatuses (Fig. 1), each of which functions as either a master apparatus configured to control a game (14) or a terminal apparatus configured to perform a processes in accordance with indications from the master apparatus (60), the plurality of game apparatuses connected to each other so as to transmit and receive data to and from each other (Fig. 1), wherein when one of the plurality of game apparatuses is set as the master apparatus (14), the game apparatuses other than the game apparatus set as the master apparatus are set as the terminal apparatuses (60), and each of the plurality of game apparatuses reads game information recorded in a card within a specific time during the game (98), the game progresses based on the read



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game information (col. 3, lines 36-39), the game apparatus set as the master apparatus has a master reception device configured to receive the game information transmitted from each of the plurality of game apparatuses (32), a start determination device configured to determine whether to start the specific time (52), a permission device configured to reject to receive the game information at the master reception device until the start determination device determines to start the specific time (col. 4, lines 52-55), and configured to permit the reception when the start determination device determines to start the specific time (col. 9, lines 18-21), an elapse time determination device configured to determine whether a time set as the specific time in advance elapses after the permission device permits the reception of the game information (col. 7, lines 29-36), and a rejection device configured to reject the reception again when the elapse time determination device determines that the set time elapses (col. 10, lines 13-16), and each of the plurality of game apparatuses has a terminal transmission device configured to transmit the game information having been read to the master reception device (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 2, Peterson teaches wherein a rejection device which rejects the reception of the game information further transmitted from the game apparatus that is a sender of the game information already received by the master reception device even before the elapse time determination device determines that the set time elapses (col. 7, lines 36-38, "usage limit").

Regarding claim 3, Peterson teaches two game apparatuses (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Peterson teaches a master apparatus (60) as a predetermined reception destination in a card game system in which when each of a plurality of game apparatuses, connected to each other so as to be able to transmit and receive data to and



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from each other (Fig. 1), reads game information recorded in a card (col. 5, lines 20-23) and transmits the game information to the predetermined reception destination within a specific time during a game (98), the game is controlled based on the game information received at the predetermined reception destination (col. 3, lines 36-39), the master apparatus comprising a reception device configured to receive the game information transmitted from each of the plurality of game apparatuses (32), a start determination device configured to determine whether to start the specific time (52), a permission device configured to reject reception of the game information at the master reception device until the start determination device determines to start the specific time (col. 4, lines 52-55), and configured to permit the reception of the game information when the start determination device determines to start the specific time (col. 9, lines 18-21), an elapse time determination device configured to determine whether a time set as the specific time in advance elapses after the permission device permits the reception of the game information (col. 7, lines 29-36), and a rejection device configured to reject the reception again when the elapse time determination device determines that the set time elapses (col. 10, lines 13-16).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.



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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US Pat. No. 5,825,876) in view of Yap et al (US Pub No. 2002/0020745) (hereinafter "Yap").

Regarding claim 4, it is noted that Peterson does not teach a card which has three or more sides and has the game information printed on a same face along the respective sides. However, Yap teaches a card which has three or more sides and has the game information printed on a same face along the respective sides (Figs. 2-5). Hence, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Peterson and Yap in order to allow for the interior



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of the card to be large enough to house a hard drive which could store substantially more data, thus increasing the complexity of the game that could be stored.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wolf et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0139214 A1) discloses a gaming machine that uses a player tracking card.

Itkis (US Pat. No. 4,856,787) discloses a master/slave gaming network that utilizes a smart card.

Rowe (US Pat. No. 6,852,031 B1) discloses a gaming machine which uses a smart card.

Ishihara et al (US Pub. No. 2002/0028710 A1) discloses a game machine which stores data on a game card.

Gatto et al (US Pat. No. 6,645,075) discloses a gaming machine which uses a network and timed access to games.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Rowland whose telephone number is (571) 270-7844. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, alternate Fridays, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. R./  
Examiner, Art Unit 4115

/John M Hotaling II/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 3714